



We note the MEC's statement on the Tara Klamp at the recent press conference, and we are saddened by the conflictual tone of the response. South Africa has made large gains in responding to the HIV crisis, and this has been largely due to involving civil society – it would set us back further if this persists in KZN.

Unfortunately, the Friedman report the MEC quotes is inadequate – we have seen it, and it was very poorly conducted. We strongly urge the MEC to urgently commission a credible and independent group to do a report on the 36 000 men who have been circumcised using the Tara Klamp. There are numerous, credible local researchers, and we are aware of the CDC having the expertise to assist. This would go a long way towards reassuring us that it is safe.

It is important for us to state that we think Medical Male Circumcision (MMC) is very important as a prevention tool, we are not anti MMC and we are well aware of the science. We are however concerned about how adverse events with relation to MMC and the Tara Klamp specifically have been handled.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren Jankelowitz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "J".

Lauren Jankelowitz  
CEO, SA HIV Clinicians Society